

Title I Funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) April 1, 2009



Montana Office of Public Instruction
Denise Juneau, Superintendent opi.mt.gov

Saving and Creating Jobs and Reforming Education

“In a global economy where the most valuable skill you can sell is your knowledge, a good education is no longer just a pathway to opportunity - it is a pre-requisite. The countries that out-teach us today will out-compete us tomorrow.”

- President Barack Obama, 2/24/09



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Balance Speed and Effectiveness

- Balance speed and stimulus with careful planning and effective reforms
- States should award funds to LEAs as quickly as is prudent and LEAs should use funds expeditiously but sensibly
- LEA obligation timelines:
 - Title I, Part A: in absence of a waiver, 85% by Sept 30, 2010 (unless allocation is less than \$50,000); any remaining by Sept 30, 2011



Short-term Investments that Produce Lasting Results; Avoid “The Cliff”

- Maximize short-term investments with lasting results for:
 - students
 - teacher, school, and district capacity for improvement
- Minimize unsustainable ongoing commitments
- Integrate coherent improvement strategies that are aligned with the core reform goals



Advance Core Reforms: Assurances

College- and career-ready standards and high quality, valid, and reliable assessments for all students, including ELLs and students with disabilities

Pre-K to higher education data systems that meet the principles in the America COMPETES Act

Teacher effectiveness and equitable distribution of effective teachers

Intensive support and effective interventions for lowest-performing schools



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Title I, Part A – ARRA: Flow of Funds

- \$34.2 million under Title I, Part A on top of normal School Year 2009-2010 allocation for MT
- ED will release 50% by the end of March 2009 (or asap) without the need for new applications.
- Remaining 50% available upon approval of State plan amendment on recordkeeping and reporting requirements
- State must reserve 4% for school improvement, of which at least 95% must be allocated to LEAs



Title I, Part A – ARRA: Fiscal Issues and Waivers

- ED will consider requests for waivers for:
 - “Set-aside” requirements in Title I, Part A that apply to the use of funds by LEAs
 - Per-pupil amount for supplemental educational services (SES)
 - State may grant LEAs a waiver of carryover limitation once every three years



Fiscal Issues and Waivers, Cont.

- ED may not waive supplement not supplant requirement, but in cases of severe budget shortfalls LEAs may have avenues to demonstrate compliance
 - (<http://www.ed.gov/programs/titleiparta/fiscalguid.pdf>.)
- For example, document that services previously provided with state and local funds can no longer be provided



Potential Uses of Title I Funds that Support Assurances and Avoid “The Cliff”

- Establish a system for identifying and training highly effective teachers to serve as instructional leaders in Title I schoolwide programs and modifying the school schedule to allow for collaboration among the instructional staff
- Programs for secondary school students to use high-quality, online courseware as supplemental learning materials for meeting mathematics and science requirements



Potential Uses of Title I Funds that Support Assurances and Avoid “The Cliff”

- Develop and expand longitudinal data systems to drive continuous improvement efforts focused on increased achievement in any Title I school
- Provide professional development to teachers in Title I targeted assistance programs on the use of data to inform and improve instruction for Title I-eligible students



Potential Uses of Title I Funds that Support Assurances and Avoid “The Cliff”

- Using reading or math coaches to provide professional development to teachers in targeted assistance programs
- Establishing or expanding fiscally sustainable extended learning opportunities for Title I-eligible students in targeted assistance programs, including activities provided before school, after school, during the summer, or over an extended school year



Potential Uses of Title I Funds that Support Assurances and Avoid “The Cliff”

- Establishing intensive, year-long teacher training for all teachers and the principal in a Title I elementary school in corrective action or restructuring in order to train teachers to use a new reading curriculum that aggressively works on students’ oral language skills and vocabulary or, in some other way, builds teachers’ capacity to address academic achievement problems



Potential Uses of Title I Funds that Support Assurances and Avoid “The Cliff”

- Strengthen and expand early childhood education by providing resources to align a district-wide Title I Pre-K program with state early learning standards and content standards for grades K-3; and
- If there is a plan for sustainability beyond 2010-2011, expanding high-quality Title I Pre-K programs to larger numbers of young children



Title I School Improvement Grants

- \$8.8 million in MT to improve lowest performing schools – almost six-fold increase in funding will be made available by Fall 2009 (On top of the regular School Improvement allocation to the state)



Title I School Improvement Grants

- States will give priority to LEAs that:
 - Serve the lowest-achieving schools
 - Demonstrate the greatest need for such funds
 - Demonstrate the strongest commitment to ensuring that such funds are used to enable the lowest-achieving schools to meet the progress goals in school improvement plans
 - State plan must be approved by US Ed



Applying for the Funds

- OPI is working to add the application into E-Grants for the ARRA Title I funds.
- LEAs will likely have an FY10 ARRA Consolidated Application AND an FY10 Regular Consolidated Application.
- These funds must be tracked and reported on separately but required percentages to be applied pertain to the total amount for FY10 (such as carryover limit, parent involvement amount, professional development amount, etc.)



Applying for the Funds

- OPI intends to have the FY10 ARRA Consolidated Application available on or before May 1, 2009 using a “clone” of the FY09 application
- At this time, the FY10 Regular Consolidated Application is planned for release on May 1 or as soon as possible with revisions OPI requested for the new year



Applying for the Funds

- LEAs will complete the ARRA version first and targeting steps done there with new data from 2008-2009 will be pre-loaded into the Regular. New goals can be selected for the Regular version if desired using the Planning Tool
- We will provide updates on these releases as soon as more information is available

